

necessary, in justice to all parties, to know if *Muttuck* is, or is to become, ours or not. The natives at present are permitted to cultivate as much land as they please, on paying a poll-tax of two rupees per year; so that if the country is not ours, every man employed on the Tea will be subject to be called on for two rupees per annum, to be paid to the old Bura Senaputy's son, as governor of the country. This point is of vital importance to our Tea prospects up here. Many individuals might be induced to take Tea grounds, were they sure, that the soil was ours, and that they would be protected and permitted to cultivate it in security.

In looking forward to the unbounded benefit the discovery of this plant will produce to England, to India,—to Millions, I cannot but thank God for so great a blessing to our country. When I first discovered it, some 14 years ago, I little thought that I should have been spared long enough to see it become likely eventually to rival that of China, and that I should have to take a prominent part in bringing it to so successful an issue. Should what I have written on this new and interesting subject be of any benefit to the country, and the community at large, and help a little to impel the Tea forward to enrich our own dominions, and pull down the haughty pride of China, I shall feel myself richly repaid for all the perils and dangers and fatigues, that I have undergone in the cause of British India Tea.

JAIPORE,

10th June, 1839.

ART. VIII.—*Proceedings of the Asiatic Society.*

(*Wednesday Evening, the 7th August, 1839.*)

The Honorable Sir E. RYAN, President, in the chair.

Read the Proceedings of the last Meeting.

Read the following letter from Professor WILSON :—

Library, East India House, London, 12th April, 1839.

DEAR SIR,—The continued serious illness of Mr. J. PRINSEP, and the uncertainty of its termination, render it impossible to communicate with him on the affairs of the Asiatic Society, and I must therefore trouble you on a subject on which he wrote to me on the Society's behalf sometime ago. Under the authority I then received, I applied to Sir F. CHANTREY to furnish the Society with a copy of his bust of Mr. COLEBROOKE, and of one of Sir W. JONES, from the head of the statue in St. Paul's Cathedral. Both have been prepared under his superintendence by a sculptor of great merit, his pupil Mr. WEEKES, and are nearly completed. The cost is severally sixty

and seventy guineas, (136*l.* 10*s.*) and it should be paid as soon as the busts are removed. I am not aware however if any arrangement has been made to remit the above sums, although I apprised Mr. PRINSEP of the amount. His lamented indisposition, and hurried departure from India, will probably have prevented him from taking any steps on the occasion. If the remittance has been made, I shall be obliged to you to inform me in what manner; if not, as is most likely, I shall be obliged to you to obtain the authority of the Society to the money being sent me without delay.

It is very probable that a similar omission may have occurred in regard to the amount of Dr. MILL's bust, which you will therefore be kind enough to correct by forwarding the amount either to him or to me. The plaster model of his bust is completed, and is most excellent, both as to its general character and individual resemblance. It and the other two will form most admirable, as well as appropriate decorations of the Society's apartments.

Yours very truly,

H. H. WILSON.

The Secretary informed the Meeting that the draft for 136*l.* 10*s.* has been remitted to Dr. WILSON by the last Overland; and that subsequent inquiry had shewn that Mr. PRINSEP had a larger sum than that required at the credit of the Society in the hands of his London Agents.

Read a letter from J. FORSHALL, Esq., Secretary to the British Museum, acknowledging receipt of No. 80 of the *Journal Asiatic Society*.

The Secretary brought to the notice of the Meeting that the present Pundit, RAMGOVIND GOSSAMEE, has been found incompetent to decypher the Inscriptions to which the Society are most desirous to give publicity, either in their monthly publication, or in their Transactions, he therefore proposed that the celebrated KAMALAKANTHA VIDYALANKA be appointed for that office, and also as the Librarian for the Oriental Books.

The proposition was unanimously carried.

Library.

The Secretary informed the Meeting of the arrival of several books selected by Professor WILSON and Dr. CANTOR, amounting in cost to 63*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*, as per list forwarded by the booksellers, Messrs. ALLEN and Co.

Lindley's Fossil Flora, 3 vols. 8vo. boards.

Agassiz' Fossil Fishes, Parts 1 to 9 and 11, folio and 4to.

Russell's Fishes of the Coromandel Coast, 2 vols. folio.

Russell's continuation of the Coromandel Serpents, 2 vols. folio.

Cuvier and Valenciennes Histoire Naturelle des Poissons, vols. 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12.

Do. additional plates, to vol. 11, 8vo.

Crouch's Introduction to Lamarek's Conchology, coloured 4to. boards.

Gould's Himalayan Birds, 1 vol. imperial folio.

Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopædia—from the *Booksellers*.

Literary and Antiquities.

Read the following reply from Government to the request of the Society for a subscription for a certain number of copies of the "*Sharya-ul-Islam*," which the Society has undertaken to print in conjunction with the Nawab JABAWUR JUNG.

To the Officiating Secretary to the Asiatic Society.

General Dept.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 2d May last, and in reply to inform you, that the Honorable the President in Council will take 25 copies of the *Sharya-ul-Islam* at 20 Co's Rs. per copy, for the use of the Seminaries of education which give instruction in Arabic Law. On the receipt of the copies the necessary orders will be issued to discharge your bill on presentation at the General Treasury.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Council Chamber, 24th July, 1839.

H. T. PRINSEP,

Secy. to Govt. of India.

Read a letter from Captain P. GERARD, forwarding two boxes of stone Idols discovered by his late brother, Dr. J. G. GERARD, and Lieut. Col. Sir Alexander BURNES, near *Manikayala*, on their route to India, 1833 and 1834.

'I take this opportunity of acquainting you for the information of the Asiatic Society, of having despatched by water two boxes to your address, to the care of my agents Messrs. COCKERELL and Co., who shall be apprized of the same. One is a large square box containing a Stone Idol in excellent preservation and beautifully executed, and complete excepting the face of one of the female figures, which is wanting. The face of the other female figure was accidentally broken off, but it has been carefully packed up in paper, and with a little cement it can easily be united, and appear as if nothing had occurred to it.

'The other is a small square box containing fragments of Idols. The whole were dug for at considerable expense in Afghanistan, at or somewhere near *Manikayala* by my brother, the late Dr. J. G. GERARD, while he was on his return route to India, during 1833 and 1834, from *Meshid* in Persia, where he separated from his companion and fellow-traveller, Lieutenant (now Lieutenant Colonel) Sir Alexander BURNES, Kt. May I therefore request that you will do me the favour of presenting the contents of both boxes on their arrival, to the Asiatic Society on my part, as having been the discoveries of my brother, the late Dr. J. G. GERARD.

'I regret to say that no particulars of their locality were found amongst my late brother's voluminous MS. papers, relating to his interesting journey, owing unfortunately to the circumstance of two-thirds of the whole having unaccountably disappeared, or been lost, which is much to be regretted, as they contained valuable information respecting *Heerat* and *Kandahar*, and the countries between *Meshid* and *Cabul*, especially about the resources of these parts, their trade, manufactures, and productions. What remained of his papers (with the exception of his meteorological observations during his absence from the end of 1831 and beginning of 1832, till March 1834, which I shall take an early opportunity of transmitting to the Society for publication at this interesting period,) were forwarded to Europe in 1836.

‘ Last year I was promised the necessary information respecting the Idols from Moonshí MOHUN LAL, but not having received it, I was unwilling to delay their dispatch any longer. Should he favour me with any particulars on the subject, I shall have great pleasure in communicating the same to the Society.

‘ P. GERARD, *Captain.*’

The boxes and contents were safely received. The thanks of the Society were voted to Capt. GERARD for this acceptable donation.

A stone Pillar of exquisite beauty and genuine Hindu style, considered to belong to the 13th century, was presented by Mr. W. S. ALLEN, by whom it was discovered with several fragments of a ruined temple, &c., on one of the shallows near *Pubna*. Lieut. KITTOE has undertaken to prepare an account and drawing of this Pillar for the next number of this Journal.

Translation of a play exemplifying the popular tone of the Burmese Drama was presented by Mr. BLUNDELL.

Physical.

Daily Observations of the Tide at Singapore for February, March, and April, 1839.

With reference to the resolution of the Meeting held on the 2nd January last, the Secretary apprised the Meeting that he had received a letter from Messrs. TAYLOR and WALTON, stating that they will supply such impressions of their Anatomical Wood-cuts as the Society may require.

Upper Gower Street, May 7th, 1839.

SIR,—Your letter of the 10th of February to DR. QUAIN on the subject of the Illustrations in his *Elements of Anatomy* has been handed to us. In reply, we beg to inform you that we shall be happy to forward the views of the Society by supplying whatever number of impressions from our engravings the Society may require. As much of the work in the Wood-cuts is very delicate, we should run a great risk of seriously injuring the blocks, by attempting to take casts from them. On this account we are prevented furnishing the metal casts, but the former plan we shall be happy to carry out in any way the Society may desire. We think your work would be much improved by the engravings being worked in this country, as the appearance of a wood-cut depends quite as much upon the printing as upon the engraving, and of course wood-cut printing has as yet been but little attended to in India. If you determine upon having the impressions, perhaps you will have the kindness to send us the following particulars :—

- 1st. The size of the volume for which the Plates are required.
- 2nd. The Number of Copies required.
- 3rd. The arrangement you would wish of the subject; how many on each plate; and in what order?
- 4th. Whether you would require the same number of the steel plates of the Brain, &c.

We remain, Sir,

Your obedient servants,

TAYLOR AND WALTON.

P.S. Presuming your work to be in demy 8vo. we would supply you with Impressions from our cuts upon the following terms:—

For 500 Sets, supposing each set occupied 5 sheets demy 8vo. printed on one side only (in all 40 pages of cuts,) 37l. 10s. which sum would include the use of the Blocks, Presswork, and Paper. £ s. d.

For 1,000 ditto ditto ditto, 67 10 0

The four steel plates of the Brain would cost you, including Paper,

Presswork, & use of Plates for 500 impressions 4 plates demy 8vo. 8 8 0

1,000 ditto ditto ditto, 16 16 0

To W. B. O'SHAUGHNESSY, Esq.

Resolved—That Messrs. TAYLOR and WALTON be requested to send 1000 copies of each set of plates.

[It will be remembered that these plates have been requested for the illustration of the "*Shanra Vidya*," or Sanscrit translation of "Hooper's Anatomist's Vade Mecum." The thanks of the Society were directed to be proffered to Professor QUAIN for his liberal aid in acceding to their request.]

Read a letter from Dr. J. T. PEARSON, forwarding an account of the *Bora chung*.

Read a letter from Dr. G. G. SPILSBURY, forwarding a specimen of a vein of Coal found close to the surface, about nine miles from Jubbulpore.

To the Secretary to the Asiatic Society.

SIR,—Herewith I beg to transmit specimen of a vein of Coal found close to the surface, about nine miles from this station.

It was first brought to notice by Mr. C. FRASER, the Agent of the Governor-General for these territories, who received his information from a *Faquir*, by whom he was informed that at a place a few hundred yards above *Lametur Ghat*, on the Nerbudda river, when the stream was at its lowest, (Charcoal stone, as he phrased it) was to be found, and that on applying fire it ignited.

Mr. FRASER and self visited the spot, situated near the middle of the river, and some 30 or 40 square yards, apparently the vein has also been traced on both sides of the river. Several of the residents have had hackery loads brought in, and find it answer well for domestic and culinary purposes. The blacksmiths are very unwilling to use it, and declare there is not sufficient heat from it to smelt iron.

I have no doubt that were a proper shaft sunk, Coal of good quality would be found, and equal to that discovered by Major Ouseley near *Garrahwarrah*, and on which such a good report was lately made in comparative trials at Bombay.

I have the honor to request you will present the specimen to the Society, and shall be glad to learn the result of its analysis. I remain, &c.,

GEORGE G. SPILSBURY.

Jubbulpore, 29th June, 1839.

The analysis of this Coal has been duly made, and the results will be published, with several similar analyses in an early number of the Journal.

Read a letter from Dr. H. H. SPRY, forwarding on behalf of Captain F. JENKINS, Political Agent of Assam, for presentation to the Society, specimens of rocks and minerals of the county of Cornwall, as well as other parts of England.

GENTLEMEN,

Calcutta, August 6th, 1839.

I do myself the pleasure of forwarding for presentation, at the approaching Meeting of the Asiatic Society, the accompanying specimens of the geology of the county of Cornwall, as well as other parts of England, on behalf of Captain JENKINS, the Political Agent of Assam; and for him I have to solicit, in return, any duplicate geological specimens the Society may possess for presentation to the Royal Institution of Cornwall. In this request I beg to join with Captain JENKINS, as we both feel assured that the rich stores which the Cornish Museum contains will be readily made available to the improvement of the Asiatic one, and an interchange thus be effected which will prove of mutual benefit.

I beg further to add, that should the Society be pleased to accede to this proposal, that I shall be happy to be the medium of communication between the two institutions, so far as assisting in facilitating the transmission of the specimens.

HENRY H. SPRY,

The Joint Secretaries of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.

The thanks of the Society were voted to Captain JENKINS, and the Curator was requested to form a suitable series of the Museum duplicates for presentation to that officer. With reference to this and some similar communications, the President observed that he was very desirous of recording his opinion that the correspondence of the Society, should on all occasions pass through the Secretaries, the regular and usual channels. Direct correspondence emanating from other officers of the Society he considered informal. He thought, for example, that all correspondence relative to the Museum should pass through the Secretaries, and he proposed a resolution to that effect, which was seconded by Mr. H. T. PRINSEP, and carried unanimously.

Dr. M^cCLELLAND presented some specimens of Mineral Ore with the following note:—

SIR,—I did myself the pleasure, some time last month, of forwarding to your address, a small package containing two or three specimens of Jasper and Asbestos, and one of Iron ore, entrusted to my care, when at Ferozepore, by Mr. C. MASSON, who told me that he had almost forgotten they were amongst his baggage, not having paid much attention to what was packed up by his servants when leaving Kabul. I had mislaid his ticket for the specimen of the ore, which I now enclose, lest I should have made any mistake in my own label, as to the place from whence the ore was obtained.

I beg to add that the ore is nearly similar, but not quite so pure or rich looking, as that obtained from the mines in the southern portion of the Busahir state.

GEORGE JEPSON.

Meerut, July 27th, 1839.

Mr. H. T. PRINSEP recalled the attention of the Society to the proceedings of the Meeting of the Society held on the 6th September, 1837. Mr. JAMES PRINSEP had appropriated the sum of 1500 francs (equivalent to Co's. Rs. 625) remitted by the Minister of Public Instruction in France, in procuring from Benares

copies of the *Vedas* which were sent to France, as prepared, through Capt. A. TROYER, agent of the Society in Paris. Since Mr. JAMES PRINSEP'S departure for England several further *Pothis* have been sent down, and are now ready for transmission. The sum advanced has been exceeded by the charges for copying, and the balance has been paid from Mr. JAMES PRINSEP'S private funds, not from those of the Society. The copies in sheets were ready to be sent to Europe, and the account prepared from Mr. JAMES PRINSEP'S private books of sums remitted by him to JUDDOONATH PUNDIT at Benares, shews an amount of Rs. 233: 7: 9, as the balance due by the Government of France; part of this amount however, viz. Rs. 196: 3: 6, was advanced at Benares from funds realised there by sale of the Society's Oriental publications, as shewn in the account of Messrs. TUTTLE and CHARLES, Mr. JAMES PRINSEP'S Agents. It remains for the Society now to declare whether the copying for the French Government shall be considered as a private transaction between Mr. JAMES PRINSEP and the French Government, or as executed by him as Secretary to the Society. In the former case, the balance 196: 3: 6, will be paid into the Society's Treasurer's hand, and the copies of the *Vedas* now ready, will be sent on Mr. JAMES PRINSEP'S private account, with a claim for the balance from that Government; but if the Meeting consider the transaction as their own, then the Society will have to pay the difference between Rs. 196: 3: 6 and 233: 7: 9, viz., 37: 4: 3, to Mr. JAMES PRINSEP'S agents, and to forward copies of *Vedas* officially through their Secretary to the Agent in Paris.

Resolved unanimously—That the transaction is one which appertains to the Society; that the copies of the *Vedas* be taken over, and the account closed.

The Honble. Mr. BIRD exhibited to the Meeting a sketch of the Camel carriage in which Mr. BIRD, of Allahabad, had recently made an official tour of 2000 miles in Upper India.

This sketch, with some papers on the subject, will appear in our next number.

Read extracts from a letter from Baron HUGEL to the address of Mr. JAMES PRINSEP.

Kritzling, near Vienna, Dec. 25, 1838.

‘I have received a few days ago, the four numbers of your Journal, Nos. 72 to 75, and I cannot find words to express the interest I took in following from the beginning to the end, your extraordinary discoveries. It is really worthy of your spirit, of your genius, to come to a fact of such immense consequences for history, but I think it proves more than any thing else, of no direct intercourse between what is called the *Peninsula* of India and Egypt—I mean of no trading vessels from Berenice to any port of the Malabar coast. I don't believe in long voyages without sails in those days, and the knowledge the Greeks and Egyptians possessed of India is much better explained in the tablets of Girmar, than by the idea of savants travelling for information without the vanity of telling it in their works. But when really Mission-

aries went to Egypt and Greece it is astonishing that nothing of this truly interesting fact should have been mentioned in any work of a Greek author. But this may be as it is, I am sure that you are only at the beginning of your work, and that we may look for real Indian history, from the time of Alexander the Great, at least, to the invasion of the Mohamedans.

‘It is a considerable time I did not write to you, my dear Sir, but I was afraid to take away from your valuable time, which you employed even beyond my expectations: but if I did hesitate any longer to send you a few lines, I am afraid I could be entirely escape your memory. I take the liberty at the same time to send you for the Society (if you think it worthy) “the Fishes of Kashmir,” found by myself in the valley, and brought home with me. I am sorry that it is in German, but as it is my *native tongue*, I think it my duty to publish in it. There is another work now printing, which I hope will prove a good one: it is “Kashmir and the Sikhs” in four volumes.

‘I beg your being good enough to send for the subscription money for the Journal to Gillanders and Arbuthnot: it happened once (just one year ago) that I was obliged to pay 9*l.* 17*s.* for four numbers of your Journal, *postage* from Calcutta to London: it was sent me from thence to Vienna by an Austrian Courier: I made all kind of remonstrances, but without success. “*Pamphlets only*” not having been written on the address, the Post Master General would not hear of a reclamation.’

‘C. H. HUGEL.’

[Some desultory conversation took place before the Meeting separated, as to the interruption of the Meteorological Register so long published in the Society’s Journal. It has been kept chiefly by Mr. GREENWAY, an assistant in the Calcutta Assay Office, who was trained by Mr. PRINSEP to the use of his unrivalled instruments, and to the correction of their indications by special tables now in Mr. GREENWAY’s possession, Mr. PRINSEP had, moreover, as a parting request, urged Mr. GREENWAY not to discontinue observations which had acquired standard value in the estimation of all Meteorologists. Mr. CURNIN, the acting Assay-Master, has however deemed it necessary to prohibit Mr. GREENWAY’s devoting any portion of his time to this employment, and Mr. CURNIN is further unwilling to allow Mr. PRINSEP’s instruments to be removed from the Mint to any other establishment. Under these circumstances, Mr. REES, of the Surveyor-General’s Office, has most liberally permitted his Registers to be made use of by the Society. We have already published that for July. The Barometrical observations are made with a first rate Troughton.

We have taken measures for having the instrument accurately compared with others which have been adjusted by the Royal Society’s standard, and the reductions to 32° will be duly calculated for quarterly periods. We propose too to add to the Register a daily double observation of the boiling point of water, taken with an excellent Thermometer, recently sent out to Mr. JAMES PRINSEP’s order. This seems to us a desideratum of much importance.

It is but justice, nevertheless, to Mr. CURNIN to add, that that gentleman considers the continuance of the observations to interfere with the duties of the Assay Office, and that he has offered to permit any competent person to attend at the Mint for the purpose. This arrangement, however, would be attended with so much expense and inconvenience, that it becomes absolutely impracticable.—EDS.]
